

**REMARKS**

Receipt is acknowledged of the Office Action of October 20, 2005. Claims 1-8, 10-20 are currently pending in the application, Claim 9 having been cancelled by the present Response. Claims 1-20 have been rejected in the Office Action. In response to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants amended Claims of the present Application and request reconsideration of the rejection, as explained in more detail below.

***Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103***

Claims 1-4, 8-14 and 16-20 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hsieh (U.S. Patent No. 6,270,325), in view of Carter (U.S. Patent No. 3,652,186). Further, Claims 5 and 7 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hsieh in view of Carter and further in view of Obara (U.S. Patent No. 6,379,129) and Claims 6 and 15 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hsieh in view of Carter and further in view of Schmider et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,176,509).

Claims 1-8, 10-20 are currently pending in the Application. Claims 1 and 17 are two remaining independent Claims.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a fan motor including a base and a cylindrically-shaped bearing housing integrally formed from the base and having a first opening located at a housing end opposite the base and a second opening located at a housing end adjacent to the base. The fan motor further includes a pair of bearings set in an interior of the bearing housing and a rotational shaft supported by the pair of bearings. A shield part is

integrally formed on the bearing housing at an end opposite the base. The shield part, formed as a unitary one-piece element with the bearing housing, extends in a radial direction towards the rotational shaft and partially closes the first opening of the bearing housing. The rotational shaft is attached to a hub having a cylindrical part extending into the bearing housing through the first opening and forming a labyrinth-shaped gap with the shield part. A retainer cap is set through the second opening of the bearing housing to enclose this second opening.

Similarly, independent Claim 17 is directed to an apparatus for a fan motor, having a bearing housing, a shield part, a hub supporting a rotational shaft and a retainer cap. The bearing housing has a hollow interior and a first and a second open end. The shield part is integrally formed as a unitary one-piece element with the bearing housing at the first end of the bearing housing and extends radially towards the interior of the bearing housing. The hub supporting a rotational shaft includes a cylindrical part extending into the bearing housing through the first end and forming a labyrinth-shaped gap with the shield part. The retainer cap fits onto the second end of the bearing housing. Thus, the interior of the bearing housing is shielded by the shield part with the labyrinth-shaped gap and the retainer cap.

The prior art of record does not disclose, teach or suggest the present invention as claimed in Claims 1 and 17. Specifically, at least the limitation of the hub having a cylindrical part extending into the bearing housing through the first opening and forming a labyrinth-shaped gap with the shield part and the limitation of the shield part integrally formed as a unitary one-piece element with the bearing housing at the first end of the bearing housing and extending radially towards the interior of the bearing housing, are not disclosed in the cited prior art. Instead, Hsieh discloses a "seat (11) of the fan assembly (10)," which "abuts the ball bearing (41)

so as to ensure the smooth rotation of the shaft (13)." See, column 3, lines 17-18. Contrary to the Examiner's observation in the Office Action, Carter does not disclose a "shield part (55) *integrally* formed on the bearing housing." (emphasis added). Instead, Carter discloses "a plate 55 bolted to the boss portion 48(a) of the end head 48 by cap screws 56 which also extend through a flange 52a of the bearing housing 52 to fixedly secure this housing to the end head." See column 4, lines 44-47. Thus, the plate 55 disclosed in Carter cannot be equivalent to the shield part element of the present independent claims which require that "the shield part and the bearing housing are a unitary one-piece element." Further, Carter's plate 55 cannot form the "labyrinth-shaped gap" with the cylindrical part of the hub because a sleeve 54 is positioned between the plate 55 and the hub 42 preventing any gap from being formed between the plate and the hub. Therefore, the above cited limitations of Claims 1 and 17 are not disclosed in either Hsieh or Carter.

Moreover, none of the cited prior art discloses limitations of the independent Claims 1 and 17 requiring that the hub is to include a cylindrical part extending into the bearing housing through the first opening and forming a labyrinth-shaped gap with the shield part and that the shield part is to be integrally formed as a unitary one-piece element with the bearing housing at the first end of the bearing housing and is to extend radially towards the interior of the bearing housing.

Based on the above, Applicants believe that Claims 1 and 17 are patentable over the cited prior art. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 2-8, 10-16 and 18-20 are believed to define patentable subject matter in view of their dependency upon allowable Claims 1 and 17 and, further, on their own merits.

The Examiner is urged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel if it will advance the prosecution of this application, or with any suggestion to resolve any condition that would impede allowance. In the event that any extension of time is required, Applicant petitions for that extension of time required to make this response timely. Kindly charge any additional fee, or credit any surplus, to Deposit Account No. 50-0675, Order No. 051319-35.

Respectfully submitted,

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